

ARE FOR CITY OWNERSHIP

Mr. Hughes and Mr. Parker, Candidates for Mayor, Declare Themselves.

Stand Unequivocally for Absorption of the Water Plant by the People.

WOULD BUILD A NEW PLANT

If Old One Can Not Be Bought Then Favor Construction of Another.

Neither Candidate Favors the Extension of the Franchise Under Any Circumstances.

Both candidates for mayor say they are in favor of the city ownership of waterworks.

To be entirely sure on this point the State Journal submitted a list of questions to both candidates for Mayor.

MR. HUGHES. Q.—Are you in favor of the municipal ownership of the waterworks?

A.—Most emphatically. I want carry out the will of the people expressed at the polls two years ago.

Q.—What steps would you take as mayor to secure the water plant for the city?

A.—The city attorney has been instructed and directed to take such steps and commence such proceedings in the district court of Shawnee county as may be necessary to acquire the waterworks plant. I agree with this.

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MAY FIX RATES.

Supreme Court Decides an Important Question.

Waterworks Decision Which Applies to Topeka.

COUNCIL IN CONTROL. May Reduce Price For Water During Life of Franchise.

Topeka's Rate Ordinance May Now Be Enforced.

Washington, March 25.—In the United States supreme court today opinions were handed down in several cases involving the construction of the state law of Illinois, authorizing cities and villages to contract for water and waterworks.

The water companies in each case contended that the law of 1872 and other subsequent acts authorizing town and city authorities to contract for a water supply for 20 years included the right to fix rates for that time and that the rate once fixed could not be changed.

The Illinois supreme court decided against the company, holding the ordinance reducing the price of water to be valid.

Today's opinion sustained the finding of the state justice McKenna in handing down the opinion that the state statutes were ambiguous, but that it had been thought advisable to decide that ambiguity in the interest of the public. A dissenting opinion was handed down by Justice White on the ground that the first ordinance was a contract.

This is one of the points involved in the controversy in Topeka with the water company. The city council claimed the right to fix rates and even passed an ordinance reducing the rates but the water company paid no attention to the action of the council and since then has collected the old rates.

City Attorney Bird has been waiting since to see what the supreme court would do with the Illinois cases and now that they have been decided, Mr. Bird has a clear field to enforce the new rate ordinance passed by the council.

CLIMAX IS NEAR.

Future of Manchuria Is Hinging in the Balance.

China Must Decide on Russian Treaty by Tomorrow.

IT MEANS ANNEXATION

If the Pending Proposition Shall Be Accepted.

M. De Giers' Actions Complicate Negotiations at Peking.

Peking, March 24.—The foreign ministers seem nearly unable to agree to the most method of policing the legation quarters. The proposition most favored by the majority and most complained of by the minority is one providing that men of the regular armies shall be detailed for the service under one officer connected with the allies.

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MEETS A FPOST.

Leavenworth Made It Unpleasant For Mrs. Nation.

Police Prevented Her From Entering Saloons.

NO PLACE TO SPEAK.

Could Not Find a Hall Open to Her.

Effort Made to Turn Visit Into Political Capital.

Makes a Short Stop in St. Louis This Morning.

Leavenworth, Kan., March 25.—The question is: "Who brought Mrs. Nation here?" Out of her visit has come an issue in the municipal campaign. The Republicans assert that the Democratic Ring is responsible for her visit in an endeavor to make political capital out of it.

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M'FARLAND RANCH SOLD

Topeka Man Sells His Place Near Alma For \$16,000.

J. M. McFarland, of Topeka, has sold his ranch near Alma, and McFarland, the purchasers are Henry Brehmeyer and Henry Gittins, cattlemen from near Wamego.

SEVEN KILLED

And Nine Badly Injured in a Mine Explosion.

Connellsville, Pa., March 25.—A special train composed of a box car and fast engine brought into Connellsville today night a train of blackened men, the victims of a terrific mine explosion at the Gates mine of the Eureka Fuel company in the New Klondike coke field in Fayette county. The mine has been worked only a few months. The explosion, it is believed, resulted from accumulated gas. Twenty-eight men entered the mine this morning. Of this number 16 were caught in the explosion and seven were killed almost instantly.

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BLIZZARD RAGES.

Worst Storm of Years in Northwest Kansas.

Kansas City, March 25.—A special to the Star from Hoxie, Kas., says: Since Saturday night the worst blizzard since 1892 has been raging in this portion of Kansas. Snow has drifted badly in every direction. The Lincoln branch train is snowed in one mile east of Hoxie. The loss to live stock will likely prove heavy.

NEGOTIATIONS ENDED.

England Will Make No Further Effort to Secure Peace.

London, March 25.—The colonial secretary, Mr. Chamberlain, when asked in the house of commons today if it was possible to change the offer of peace terms to the Boers, said the negotiations were closed and there was no intention of reopening them.

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KILLS 25.

Cyclone Sweeps Over Region of Birmingham, Ala., Causes Immense Damage to Property and Loss of Life.

HOUSES DEMOLISHED.

Wires Down and Complete Details Lacking.

Police and Firemen Taking Dead and Injured From Ruins.

Birmingham, Ala., March 25.—A cyclone which swept over Jones valley in which Birmingham is located, between 8 and 10 o'clock this morning resulted in immense damage to property and considerable loss of life. The number of dead is not yet definitely known, but up till noon today it was estimated at 25, of these at least seven being killed at Irondale, about 15 in the city of Birmingham, and the others in suburban towns.

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BETWEEN TRAINS

Mrs. Nation Finds Time to Visit a St. Louis Saloon.

St. Louis, March 25.—Mrs. Carrie Nation favored St. Louis with a short visit today. En route to Cincinnati, the famous saloon wacker stopped here before reaching the city. She was in the saloon for a few minutes, but she was not seen by any of the habitués.

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